

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION.

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Tuesday, May 14. 1706.

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**T**His is not the first time, that the Duke of Marlborough has fought for his Life, as well as his Honour; I presume therefore, without Compliment to his Person, to say one thing of him, has not yet been said, and which to me is the greatest Panegyrick on his Character, that can be thought of.

His Grace gives the greatest Testimony of a sincere Concern, for the Safety and Honour of England abstracted from, and almost in Opposition to his OWN, that has been given by any Subject in Europe for some Ages: And that is, that being rais'd by his Success and really great Actions to the highest Pitch both of Honour and Fortune, which as a Subject he is capable to obtain, he does not look in, and consider-

ing his Fortune made, his Name rais'd, and all his Business for this World done, covet to sit down, make a full stop, and to prevent even the Possibility of going back, secure to himself, the Glory gain'd, and Triumph the rest of his Days in Peace and Plenty. Why does he not petition to lay down, to be dismiss'd the Hazard, and possess the Glory of the War, and please himself hereafter with looking on upon the Destruction War makes among Men of Merit?

If the Duke of Marlborough studied his Ease, if he studied his own Safety or private Interest, this would certainly have been his Method; and no question the Battle of Blenheim was a Period to happy, that no Man could have retreated with more Advantage.

What

What then must the meaning of his still continuing to risque his Fame and Fortunes be? He cannot but see a strong Party of Men here wait to lay hold on every Advantage, the least Miscarriages in his Conduct should give them; wait to give ill Turn to all his Actions, and to mis-represent the greatest Attempt he shall make for the general Good; they that vow'd his Fall before, for marching the *English* Army into *Germany*, and who, had the Battle of *Blenheim* miscarried, had prepar'd that Blow, and resolv'd to strike it home; Are they not still laying wait for his halting, and every Hour reproaching his Conduct, and will they not ever fill our Heads with Rallery upon the first wrong Step or ill Success, whether it be by a wrong Step or no, that shall befall him?

What then can he push at? Ambition cannot be the Cause, for he can't be greater; Avarice cannot be the Vice, for he can't be richer, at least than he might be by staying at home, and improving his present Fortunes by his Mistress's Favour?

We must wrack ill Nature to find out a Cause for this, that will any way serve the Turn of the Party, that exclaim on him; in common Sense it can be nothing but a Zeal for the Glory of his Mistress and Benefactor, the *QUEEN*, and a Resolution to hazard all for the reducing the *French* Tyranny, and delivering his Country from the Fears and Bondage of an over-balance'd Power in *Europe*.

I would recommend it to the Enemies of this great Man, to assign a true, or another Cause, why a Man elevated to as high a pitch, as this World can well raise him, should continue to run all Hazards, both of Misfortune abroad and Malice at home, and not sit down laden with Honour, and enjoy the Fruits of it. Will they say 'tis Thirst of Glory? Give me leave to tell them, that part of Emulation, which strives for and pushes at the Glory of great and good Actions, is above all Vertues the most commendable; to covet Glory by doing a just Cause, faithful Service, to be thirsty of Honour for the Service of our Country, is certainly a most vertuous Pride.

I am the last as well as the worst Man of Praise that writes in these Times, and for Expectations I have none; but I must oppose common Light, argue against invincible Conviction, and deny my own Reason. I should forbear an Observation so just, or join with those that seek for something to lessen or slacken a Reputation, that all the World agrees in.

Were the Duke's Designs private, sinister, avaritious or ambitious, he would have done, he would sleep now in a whole Skin, with a whole Character, an unwounded Reputation, and not venture into the Field again, to bear the Load of other Mens Mistakes, and hazard his Reputation as well as his Life; and the first to a more merciless and unreasonable Enemy than the last.

If he should fall into the Hands of the *French*, they will treat him as he is, like a Man of Honour, they'll use him with Civility, and saving the Circumstance of a Prisoner, he would meet with Respect suitable to his Character, and perhaps some Deference to his Merit.

But here he finds no Favour, they give his Reputation no Quarter; and if ever he falls under their lash, he knows what Treatment he is to meet with, even all the barbarous Methods of Scandal, Slander, and Reproach.

The Duke has but one way to escape them, and that is, as the great King of *Navarre* said to *Henry III.* of *France*, **TO CONQUER.** Every Victory over the *French*, is a Conquest over this Party also; every happy Step he takes, is a Stab to their Cause; a certain Sign the *French* and they are all in one Interest.

But in the mean time 'tis very hard, that this should be the Fate of all those that will serve their Country.

The Duke of *Marlborough* is just now opening the Campaign, and must own he does it under infinite Discouragements; the numerous Armies and united Councils of the *French*, their vigorous Measures, vigilant Generals, and early Preparations, turn the Scale upon him every way; he can turn his Hand no way, but it is to retrieve Losses,



ses, rather than push at the Execution of new Designs. Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy*, and Prince *Lewis* of *Baden*, are both overpowered by the *French*, and their Inequality of Strength, as well as Backwardness in Preparation, are great Disheartnings to his Proceedings.

In *Flanders* we are superiour indeed; but as no great Enterprize is expected there, so on the other hand, if the Duke moves from thence with any Forces proportion'd to his Character, or to Designs worthy of himself, the superiour *French* will be apt to press the *Dutch*, which no Man can blame them for declining the Hazard of.

I confess therefore, I see no possibility of the Duke acting at the Head of any separate Army, early enough or strong enough to give the *French* a Blow suitable to his great Designs.

However I shall in my next enter a little, by way of Remark, on what may probably offer on the other side; for tho' the *French* push hard, and have made very rude Work with the *Germans*, and the Loss is very considerable; yet as Prince *Lewis* has secur'd his Troops by crossing the *Rhine*, and has not receiv'd any great Blow in that part; Time may change the Scene, and the *Germans* may have their Turn again, when they are got together; which tho' it be late, if they can stand their Ground, they may give the Duke Leave and Leisure to execute some Designs that are not yet discover'd, and which we may be sure, the *French* have their Eye upon, by their speedy returning the Troops they had detach'd from the *Moselle*.

## MISCELLANEA.

I Had, in Answer to a Letter sent me about the Mine Adventure, given in a late Review my Opinion of that Affair; and as I thought, I gave it with all the Calmness and Modesty I could, quoted no Authority, but what is to be found in what the Company have been pleas'd to publish themselves, and drew no Inferences, but what I think are justifiable, and for ought I yet see are unanswerable; and in this I thought I could give no Offence, no not to the Company themselves, or any Body concern'd.

But as I have the Misfortune never to please, where People judge by their Interest, not their Reason; I find my self very ill treated, and severely threatned upon that Account; and I suppose the End is to terrify me from making publick what I have farther to say upon that Head.

But in this also the Gentlemen will be farther mistaken; and as I have never been over apt to consult my Prudentials, when Truth and Matter of Fact is before me,

tho' when much more powerful People have been concern'd, than are here: So I am oblig'd to acquaint the World, that I think my self bound, to avoid the Scandal of being afraid to speak the Truth, to go on with my Observations on that Head; and as I shall descend farther into particulars, than I intended at first to do; I shall perhaps show such Evidence for my Calculations, as may inform the World of some particulars, they will own their present Ignorance in, and be very glad to know: As to Threatnings and Prosecutions, *Truth* is above Fear; and if I say any thing else, I ask no Quarter.

### ERRATA.

REVIEW, No. 56. Line 1. *Suspences*,  
r. *Suspence*; L. 2. *Accounts* r. *Actions*;  
l. 5. *Events* r. *Things*; L. 6. after *issued*, delete  
out; l. 10, & 11. *withdraw*, r. *withdrawn*;  
l. 13. del. *most*; l. 15. *depend*, r. *depends*;  
l. 16. it r. *them*.